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NESCO
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, SOPN
SUBJECT: UNESCO: IPDC COUNCIL STATUS REPORT
1. SUMMARY. THE RELATIVELY APOLITICAL AND BUSINESSLIKE
APPROACH WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE COUNCIL MEETING SO
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FAR MOMENTARILY FELL APART THE MORNING OF JUNE 22.
IRAQ ATTACKED A PAUL CHUTKOW ARTICLE IN THE INTERNA-
TIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, WHICH SAID AMONG OTHER THINGS
THAT G-77 MODERATES WERE NOT SUPPORTING IRAQ AND CUBA
IN THEIR HARD-LINE EFFORTS TO GET THE NEW WORLD
INFORMATION ORDER (NWIO) INCLUDED IN THE DEBATE. A
NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WENT ON TO SUPPORT IRAQ AND TO
RAISE POLITICAL ISSUES. THE U.S. SPOKE TWICE TO
STRONGLY REGRET THE POLITICIZATION OF THE DEBATE, WHICH
IT SAID COULD ONLY HURT IPDC. END SUMMARY.
2. THE IPDC COUNCIL MET AT 11:00 A.M. JUNE 22 TO
RECEIVE THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE CURRENT MEETING, WHICH
HAD BEEN PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT OVER THE WEEKEND.
IT WILL RECONVENE THIS AFTERNOON TO CONSIDER THE REPORT.
3. THE IRAQI DELEGATE RAISED THE ISSUE OF AN ARTICLE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
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IN THE JUNE 20-21 HERALD TRIBUNE (SEPTEL), WHICH HE SAID INACCURATELY REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF THE G-77 AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT ON THE NWIO AND THE ISRAELI BOMBING OF IRAQ. THE CHUTKOW PARAGRAPH FOLLOWS:

4. "ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, EFFORTS BY CUBA AND IRAQ TO INTERJECT THE SLOGAN 'NEW WORLD INFORMATION ORDER' INTO THE DISCUSSIONS WERE REJECTED BY THE G-77. SO WAS AN IRAQI PROPOSAL TO SEEK CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL FOR ITS ATTACK ON THE NUCLEAR CENTER NEAR BAGHDAD."

5. THE IRAQI DELEGATE SAID HE WAS NOT INVITED TO GIVE HIS VIEWS TO THE TRIB. HE SAID THAT THE FACT THAT THE ARTICLE TOOK NO NOTICE OF AN ANNOUNCED CONTRIBUTION BY IRAQ TO THE IPDC SHOWED THE PAPER'S BAD FAITH.

6. THE UNITED STATES THEN TOOK THE FLOOR AND MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

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7. "THIS SEEMS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO CLEAR UP A CONTINUING MISUNDERSTANDING. THE PRESS DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE PRESS. IN A COUNTRY SUCH AS OURS WHERE WE ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF A FREE PRESS THE MEDIA ARE FREE TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR VIEWS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE INDEPENDENNT OF EACH OTHER.

8. "THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THAT A GROUP OF MEMBER STATES CHOSE TO USE THE OCCASION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AND THE PREMISES OF UNESCO TO CIRCULATE A DECLARATION ON A POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH IS ENTIRELY OUTSIDE THE COMPETENCE OF THE IPDC AND UNESCO AND THAT THE DELEGATE OF IRAQ CHOSE TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT IN THIS COUNCIL. IT IS FUTILE AND INAPPROPRIATE TO RAISE ISSUES IN UNESCO WHICH ARE PROPERLY DEALT WITH IN OTHER UN FORA. THIS KIND OF MISUSE OF THE IPDC AND UNESCO IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT WHICH HAS PREVAILED AT OUR MEETING AND IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE SMOOTH LAUNCHING OF THE PROGRAM."

9. THE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE THEN SPOKE. HE AGREED WITH IRAQ AND SAID THAT THE NWIO IS NOT A SLOGAN, BUT A FUNDAMENTAL TENET OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED COUNTRIES. THE IPDC, HE SAID, IS NOT JUST A CLEARINGHOUSE OR AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION, WHICH IS A COVER FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

10. VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TARRE MURZI, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNESCO G-77, SPOKE NEXT. HE SAID THAT THE G-77 AND THE NON-ALIGNED WERE TOGETHER ON THEIR ASPIRATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE REJECTED ANY NOTION THAT DELEGATES HAD NO RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON PRESS COVERAGE OF THE

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MEETING. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS TO "DEFORM" THE FACTS ABOUT UNESCO.
11. THE SOVIET UNION THEN BACKED THE IRAQI DELEGATE AND ATTACKED UNNAMED DELEGATIONS FOR THEIR LACK OF SUPPORT FOR THE IPDC.
12. TUNISIA AND BANGLADESH THEN REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT
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FOR NWIO AND THEIR SIMPATHY FOR IRAQ. SAUDI ARABIA SAID THAT THIS EPISODE INDICATED THAT SERIOUS THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SOME SORT OF CODE OF ETHICS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESS TO DISTORT THE FACTS. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DOES NOT GIVE THE RIGHT TO DISTORT, THE SAUDI SAID.
13. THE UNITED STATES THEN INTERVENED AGAIN AND MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT :
14. "MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS DISCUSSION IS GOING FAR AFIELD FROM OUR AGENDA. THE CONTINUED PURSUIT OF THESE POLITICAL EXPRESSIONS IS SLOWLY ERODING THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF THIS PROGRAM AND ITS POSSIBILITIES FOR BECOMING THE USEFUL MECHANISM IT HAS IN IT TO BECOME.
15. "THE U.S., IN DEVELOPING THIS MECHANISM HAS LOOKED
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UPON IT AS A MEANS OF HAVING UNESCO DEBATES TURN ASIDE FROM JUST THIS KIND OF POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AND FOCUS ON THE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO ASSISTING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN STRENGTHENING THEIR COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES. AS I SAID EARLIER, OUR GOVERNMENT IS WATCHING THE IPDC'S FIRST STEPS TO SEE HOW IT ORGANIZES ITS WORK AND WHAT DIRECTION IT WILL TAKE. I'M AFRAID THAT TODAY WE HAVE BEEN REINFORCING THE CONCERNS OF THE SKEPTICS AND THAT IS MOST REGRETTABLE."

16. GARBO OF NORWAY, THE CHAIRMAN, THEN INTERRUPTED THE DEBATE. HE NOTED THAT THE DEBATE HAD WANDERED INTO POLITICAL QUESTIONS. PERHAPS THE QUESTIONS HAVING TO DO WITH INFORMATION SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AT A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING. HE SAID HE WAS IN SYMPATHY WITH IRAQ ON THE QUESTION OF THE

ISRAELI BOMBING, BUT THAT WAS OUTSIDE IPDC'S MANDATE. IT WAS COMPLETELY WITHIN IRAQ'S RIGHT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MEETING, HOWEVER. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE DEBATE HAD TAKEN CARE OF IRAQ'S CONCERN, THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE RAPPORTEUR ABOUT WHETHER IT SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT.

17. IRAQ THEN SPOKE A SECOND TIME. HE REITERATED HIS ARGUMENTS AND SUGGESTED THAT THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE SHOULD HAVE TALKED TO THE IRAQI DELEGATION. HE SAID THE COUNCIL REPORT SHOULD NOT INCLUDE ANY THREATS. (PRESUMABLY HE WAS REFERRING TO THE SECOND U.S. INTERVENTION.)

18. THE CHAIR THEN SAID THAT HE FELT THE MATTER HAD GONE FAR ENOUGH AND ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

19. COMMENT: IT IS IRONIC THAT THE TRIB ARTICLE IS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO THIRD WORLD CONCERNS FOR THE NEED FOR COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT. IN OUR VIEW, THE ARTICLE IS AN ACCURATE AND BALANCED ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE MEETING AS OF THE WEEK END. IT IS A FACT THAT THE G-77 CHAIRMAN AND OTHER MODERATES PERSUADED IRAQ TO KEEP THE BOMBING ISSUE OUT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AND (PRIOR TO THIS MORNING) TO KEEP THE DEBATE ON A FAIRLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL PLANE. SOME OF THE SPEAKERS WHO SUPPORTED IRAQ WERE PLAINLY DOING SO BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO SUPPORT A FELLOW ARAB OR TO AVOID ANY HINT OF A SPLIT BETWEEN THIRD WORLD DELEGATIONS. NONE OF THE AFRICANS CAME TO THE SUPPORT OF THE IRAQIS.

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT GARBO'S HANDLING OF THIS

DIFFICULT QUESTION WAS BOTH FAIR AND COMPETENT.
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